



Clair House Vineyards, Cooksville.

Results that cannot fail to exercise an important influence on the horticulture and trade of this province, have been already secured by the comparatively recent experiments in vine-growing and wine-making which have been made by Mr. De Courtenay of Cooksville. The success that has marked the history of this vineyard for the past three years demonstrates that grapes, well suited for table use, and for the

tons of grapes. Some of our readers, who have not inspected the Clair House Vineyards for themselves, may regard this statement as an exaggeration. A visit to the establishment will effectually dispel any such doubt, and will most probably enlist such visitors among the believers in the movement, if not among the shareholders in the concern. As regards pruning, no satisfactory description of the process can be given in writing. It must be seen and studied to be understood. The method of propagation pursued is by planting cuttings at the time of pruning in spring. The soil being thoroughly pulverized, and a little bone manure added, three cuttings each of about a yard in length are planted together—the distance preserved between each three being, as already intimated, four yards. We carefully inspected a large area planted last season, and satisfied ourselves that of the cuttings so planted, at least two-thirds thrive and do well. The young vines come into bearing the third year. The fruit is, however, invariably removed from them that

As already stated, the vines are pruned in the spring; and, with the exception of keeping the stems of the plants for about a yard high from the ground, carefully divided by shoots and leaves, not a tendril or a leaf is disturbed till the ensuing year. By thus preserving what have been well designated "the lungs of the plants" uninjured, the fruit produced is of the finest possible description. The important object of having all the fruit in the vineyard ripen simultaneously, is also fully secured, a matter of no small consequence where grapes are grown for wine-making purposes.

The Clair House Vineyards comprise 170 acres of land, of which 40 are already planted with grape vines, more than half of which are in full bearing. The example thus set has not been lost upon residents in the neighborhood, by whom considerable tracts have been planted with cuttings gratuitously furnished by Mr. De Courtenay. Why should not every farm and garden in the land be decorated with a grape walk similar to that shown in the above engravings?



Grape Trellises at the Clair House Vineyard, Cooksville.

manufacture of wine, take kindly to our climate, and withstand the inclemency of our winters without any protection whatever.

Did space permit, we would gladly enter into some details of the growth of this important undertaking. Like every other innovating enterprise of a useful character, the Vine-growers' Association has had many difficulties to encounter. We believe, that the history of the movement will shortly be issued in pamphlet form when we may notice it more in detail, at present we will address ourselves more particularly to the system of culture pursued with the vine at Cooksville.

Mr. De Courtenay rightly regards the essential condition of successful culture to consist in a proper system of planting and pruning. The vigour of the vine varies with the climate, and consequently in warmer latitudes the plants require a larger amount of feeding-ground so to speak than they do in colder regions. In this province, a suitable distance between vines is four yards apart each way. This affords an area of sixteen square yards to each plant. planted thus, an acre contains somewhat over three hundred vines, and yields from fifteen to twenty-five

year before it ripens, in order that it may not unnecessarily exhaust the plant. It is a well established fact in plant physiology, that the chief exhaustion of the vine, and other fruit yielding plants and trees, occurs from the time when the seed begins to form until it ripens. Removing the fruit before it matures has another beneficial effect, inasmuch as it permits the plant to divert its resources of sap to the better ripening and hardening of its wood. It will readily be understood, that in a rigorous winter climate like ours this is an important desideratum. The young vine, in the fourth year of its life, presents the appearance shown in the accompanying illustration. The dimensions of the row so admirably depicted by our artist, are as follows.—Twenty-four feet in width, six feet in height; distance between the plants six feet, space between the row shown and the next, six feet. The outer row shown on each side of the engraving, forms one side of an avenue similar to that fully represented by our artist. As will be observed, the vines are trained on simply constructed rustic trellises. In fastening these structures together, as well as in securing the vines to them, no other material is used but shoots of the osier willow.

Killing the Worms.

THE worms in my apple trees were legion—they were in solid masses as large as my fist. How to destroy them was the question. I tried crushing them in my hands—this was quite effectual—but, bah! rather too unpleasant; so I bethought me of another plan. I took a pint of kerosene oil in a vessel, went to the rag bag and got some pieces of rags of various sizes, averaging as large as my hand—was not very particular about the size—some of them may have been larger than my hand. These I put into the oil—then I took a lot of matches and a pole about ten or twelve feet long, the small end of which was split a little way down through the middle. I put a rag, saturated with oil, in this split of the stick, and set it on fire with a match, and then held it close to the nests of the worms, and destroyed as many as possible with the burning rag. Large clusters of them fell to the ground, and these I killed by smashing them with my boots—taking a fresh rag as fast as one was burned. These rags burn with a good blaze and intense heat, and I consider them very effective. I think that in three hours I destroyed enormous quantities of them. This is a sort of "Greek fire" for them, and is terribly destructive to the worms.—*Ed.*